

Shallow Water and Mud Flat (OSM)

The Shallow Water and Mud Flat (OSM) map class represents shallow waters and mud flats with <10% rooted vegetation and found along meandering oxbow channels bordering islands of the Mississippi River. OSM is closely associated to the River and Stream (ORS) map class.

Because of frequent changes in water depth in the Mississippi River's lock and dam system, annual plants often take root during opportunistic scenarios of water draw down. For those mud flat sparsely vegetated (<10%), the plant community most likely present is the River Mud Flats Sparse Vegetation (CEGL002314). Many mud flats remain without vegetation with as surface exposure comes late in the growing season. Many exposed mud flat areas on the October-dated photography are completely inundated on the August-dated photography.

We did not attempt to map the River Mud Flats Sparse Vegetation plant community. Adequately detecting vegetation of <10% on aerial photographs is difficult, but when it exists it most reasonably is captured with OSM.

The LULC Level II unit best describing the OSM map class is Water, Streams and Canals (51).

Representative picture is not available.